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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **CEAPRO INC.** [CA/CA]; 4046 EDC, University of Alberta, 8303-114 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E1 (CA).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **REDMOND, Mark, J.** [CA/CA]; 1160492 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6C 1B3 (CA). **FIELDER, David, A.** [CA/CA]; 9911-68 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6A 2S6 (CA).

(74) Agents: **ERRATT, Judy, A.** et al.; Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP, Suite 2600, 160 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1C3 (CA).

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(54) Title: IMPROVED EXTRATION AND PURIFICATION METHOD FOR CEREAL  $\beta$ -GLUCAN

(57) Abstract: A novel method to extract and purify cereal  $\beta$ -glucan is described. Cereal  $\beta$  glucans are distinctive polymers of glucose differentiated from other polymers not only by their source but also by their physicochemical properties. The high purity of the cereal  $\beta$ -glucan obtained according to the present invention allows for the preparation of clear, colourless viscous liquid preparations. These liquid preparations are stable to gelling effects when kept at ambient temperatures and low ash concentrations. Compositions comprising  $\beta$  (1-3)  $\beta$  (1-4) glucan and a freezing point depressant are also, described.

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